

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application.

Claims 1, 6-9 and 16-21 were pending in the application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 16. No new matter is being added.

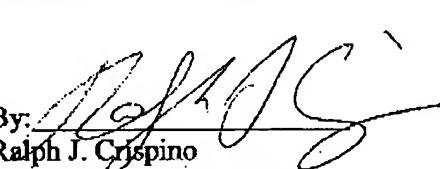
The Examiner has variously rejected all of the pending claims based on of U.S. Patent No. 5,967,577 to Bhandarkar et al. ("Bhandarkar"), U.S. Patent No. 3,809,506 to Malcosky ("Malcosky"), U.S. Patent No. 4,858,975 to Ogawa ("Ogawa"), U.S. Patent No. 6,336,492 to Nagaoka ("Nagaoka"), and U.S. Patent No. 2,572,640 to Lovegrove ("Lovegrove").

Applicant have amended claims 1 and 16 to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Regarding the various rejections of the pending claims over Bhandarkar, Malcosky, Ogawa, Ogawa and Lovegrove (the cited prior art, or "CPA"), it is respectfully submitted that the nothing in the CPA shows the varying thicknesses, which result in varied hole lengths, as defined in amended (and as presented in the responses of February 13, 2006 and May 2, 2006). Therefore, since this feature is not taught, suggested or disclosed by any of the CPA, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejections be removed.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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